Notes on Early Greeks

1. Originally the Greeks were not united as a people
   1. Were rather a collection of individual city states
   2. Share a common language
      1. Why the Greek language is so valued
      2. Why it was so widespread
   3. One of the first Greek communities were the Minoans
      1. Lived on Crete
      2. Did a lot of trading both of language and culture
         1. Did with those in the Mediterranean
         2. Many islands of Greece also
      3. Greatly influenced by the sea
         1. Allows you to fish
         2. Easy transportation
         3. Trade and expansion
         4. Links city states together
      4. The land was not very welcoming
         1. Many mountains
            1. Block transportation
            2. Block unity
            3. Prevents farming
            4. Protects from invaders
         2. They traded to get what they couldn’t themselves
         3. Climate was always stayed the same
            1. Warm
            2. Moist
            3. Comfortable

Spent a lot of time outside

Can work on art and culture

Do more manual labor

Were able to affect other aspects like architecture

* 1. Another Greek city state was that of the Mycenaean’s
     1. Geography/climate
        1. Mountains
        2. Sea
        3. Temperate climate
     2. They were able to control due to their protective geography
        1. Dominated between 600 B.C.
     3. Contemporary of the Minoans
        1. Trade is very important
           1. Could become Allies
           2. Could start a fight
           3. Interact and share culture
     4. Interactions with other city states
        1. Traded with Minoans
        2. Fought with Troy
           1. Led way to the Trojan War
           2. Trojan Horse

Tactic used by the Mycenaean’s

Still used in contemporary culture

* + - * 1. Unsure if this was an actual war
        2. All written down in The Iliad by Homer
  1. After the Mycenaean’s collapsed the Dorian’s arose
     1. Between this period storytellers arose
        1. Formed epic tales
        2. Gave way to Greek myths
           1. Used to explain unknown occurrences
           2. Themes:

Emotions

Anger

Sadness

Happiness

* + - * 1. Done by use of the Gods